

REMARKS

Claims 3-13 and 15-32 are presented for consideration, with Claims 3, 4, 13, 17, 20, 23 and 24 being independent.

Initially, Applicant respectfully wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended toward his representative during the telephone interview of January 27, 2005. The interview focused primarily on independent Claim 3, and the patents to Webb '135 and Yang '412.

As discussed in more detail below, the independent claims have been amended along the lines discussed during the telephone interview. It was agreed that amending the claims in this manner would overcome the outstanding rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103.

In that regard, Claims 3-13 and 15-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Webb '135 and Yang '412.

Claim 3 of Applicant's invention relates to a remote control method for controlling a remotely controllable apparatus from an external device connected to the remotely controllable apparatus, wherein the apparatus has a control panel for specifying a processing operation and a reader for reading an image of a document, and which is operated in accordance with an indication from the control panel and/or an externally supplied command. The method includes the step of detecting that the document has been set to the reader. In addition, as discussed during the interview, Claim 3 has been amended to include the step of, in response to detecting the document, causing the external device to display a virtual control panel, with the virtual control panel for user interaction to instruct the reader to perform a reading operation of the document, and the virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of the control panel. Additional steps include generating a command of the remotely

controllable apparatus corresponding to an operation of the virtual control panel, and supplying the generated command to the remotely controllable apparatus.

The patent to Webb relates to a host computer in communication with one or more printers. As shown in Figure 1, the host computer 11 and printer 16 are connected to each other, with an operator panel 35 provided on the printer, and a replica of the panel provided at the host 11 at dialogue box 63.

The secondary citation to Yang relates to an automatic document sensing apparatus and method for use in an optical scanner. In Yang, scanner optics capable of reading lines of data on a document includes mirrors 5, 6, 7, a lens and/or filter 8, and a charge coupled device 4.

As discussed during the interview, even the proposed combination of Webb and Yang would not teach or suggest a remote control method that includes, among other features, in response to detecting that a document has been set to the reader, causing an external device to display a virtual control panel, with the virtual control panel provided for user interaction to instruct the reader to perform a reading operation of the document. As noted above, it was agreed at the interview that amending Claim 3 to emphasize this feature of Applicant's invention would distinguish the invention over the proposed combination of art.

As will be appreciated, the remaining independent claims, i.e., Claims 4, 13, 17, 20, 23 and 24, have been amended in substantially the manner similar as Claim 3. These claims are therefore also submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

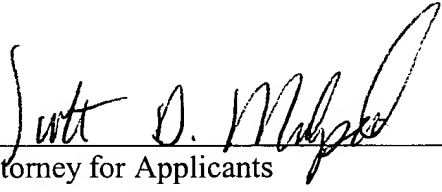
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 3, 4, 13, 17, 23 and 24 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 5-12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 25-32 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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